**MINUTES Regular LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group MEETING held in THE CONFERENCE room of the LEITI, old budget bureau building redemption, road, MONROVIA, Liberia**

**Thursday, March 9, 2023**

Present in Attendance were:

**GOL**

**CSO**

1. Matthew Karley NSCL.

2. Fallah B. Kamara MCSCL

3. Cecelia Danuweli PWYP

4. Winston Wreh LLC

 1. C. Mike Doryen FDA

2. Gesler Murray MME

3. B. Al-Dennis LRA

6. Benedict Ocran MFDP

**Private Sector**

1. Evis Morris GVL

2. Marcus S. Wleh AML

3. Ekema Witherspoon LibTA

 **Observer**

**LEITI**

 **Others**

1. Gabriel Belepea

1. Jeffery N. Yates/HoS
2. Zaza Y. Quaqua/DHOS
3. McDonald S. Kerl Sr.-Technical Officer
4. Cedrick Kpadeh/Communications

**Preliminaries:** The call meeting of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) was held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 in the LEITI Conference Room. Commencing at 13:32 GMT, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the MSG, C. Mike Doryen of the Forestry Development Authority who immediately after notification of a quorum, instructed the HOS to read out the agenda for adoption.

1. **Opening Prayer:** The Presiding instructed Mr. Fallah B. Kamara to lead the opening prayer which was done.
2. **Reading and Adoption of the Agenda:** - The HOS, Jeffrey Yates read a 5-item agenda that mainly focused on the visit to Liberia of EITI manager for Anglophone Africa, Dr. Michael Uzoigwe and the review of the action points from the Country’s last validation exercise. The Presiding then sought a motion for the adoption of the agenda which came from B. Al Dennis of the LRA who motioned for an unchanged agenda. His motion was seconded by Ekema Witherspoon of LibTA. Thus, the agenda was adopted without addition or subtraction.
3. **Welcome Remarks:** The Presiding at this juncture, invited the Co-chair, Mr. Gelser Murray of MME to do the welcome remarks. Mr. Murray in his statement especially welcomed Dr. Uzoigwe of the EITI to Liberia acknowledging the role he is playing in the EITI implementation in Liberia admonishing him to continue to good works for a global extractive industries sustenance of transparency. He then challenged his colleagues to have an open-minded discussion for the greater good of the country especially as validation is less than a year away.
4. **Introduction of Dr. Uzoigwe:** At this juncture, the Presiding requested the HoS to formally introduce the visiting guest from the EITI and his mission to the Country. To that, Mr. Yates told the Body that Mr. Uzoigwe had earlier planned to visit the country but had to cancel due to circumstances caused by the the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. He informed the MSG that Dr. Uzoigwe was in the Country to mainly assess Liberia’s level of progress in the implementation of the EITI as the Country goes to Validation in April 2024.
5. **Presentation on Action points**-Dr**. Michael** Uzoigwe before opening his power point presentation extolled the Liberian MSG for its efforts in driving the Country to a level of considerable greatness in the EITI implementation but was quick to remind the Body of a greater task of maintaining the records going to validation. He disclosed that his visit was to assess the country’s progress going to validation so as to advance recommendations where necessary.

He praised Liberia’s progress in the creation of a beneficial ownership regime thus far and admonished the MSG to continue the pace for the establishment of full register for the Country in the not-too-distant future. He noted that since his arrival into the Country, he has met top government officials and the indications are that there are immense political will to foster EITI implementation in the Country.

Dr. Uzoigwe opening his PowerPoint presentation noted that Liberia’s last Validation recommended 14 action points that the Country must address before the next Validation in 2024. He however, stated that the Secretariat was doing a tremendous as it has already addressed most of the issues outlined in the action points.

One sticky point however, was the issue with the sale of seismic data. The MSG needed to establish the financial relationship between NOCAL and TGS NOPEC so as to obtain for reporting purposes, data on these sales. After some lengthy discussions across the floor, the MSG agreed to do an official communication to the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) for the supply of these data.

1. ***AOB:*** Under AOB, the Hos officially presented to the Body, the Deputy Head of Secretariat, Mr. Zaza Y. Quaqua who was recruited through a rigorously competitive process. After his presentation, the Presiding thanked all those that spearheaded the recruitment exercise and admonished Mr. Quaqua to use his qualification and expertise to positively impact the LEITI. With that the meeting was adjoined at 14:53 GMT